CLAIMS

I claim:

Claims 1-63 (Previously Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ biologically stable orthopedic securing system adapted to~~for~~ secure~~ing~~ at least one elongate element to a tissue, the system comprising two or more nut sections that assemble to form a nut, the assembled nut comprising:

a nut surface adapted to ~~that~~ substantially contacts a tissue surface;

one or more element channels extending substantially along the radial axis of at least one of the two or more nut sections, the one or more element channels adapted to press the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery of the nut sections; and

a band disposed around the periphery.

65. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

66. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein at least a portion of the one or more element channels comprises a friction surface.

67. (Previously Amended) The fastening system according to claim 64 wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

68. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the nut surface is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

69. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

70. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut contacts the tissue surface.

71. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 69, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

72. (Previously Canceled)

73. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 71, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

74. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 73, wherein the one or more element channels maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is moved from encircling the smaller diameter to encircling the larger diameter of the at least two diameters.

75.-77. (Previously Canceled)

78. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:
a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and
an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

79. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ biologically stable orthopedic fastening system adapted ~~for~~ to secur~~e~~ing at least one elongate element to a tissue, the system comprising:

two or more nut sections that form a nut when assembled, the assembled nut comprising:

two or more inner surfaces adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery; and

a band that substantially surrounds the periphery, the height of the radial axis of the band being less than height of the radial axis of the nut.

80. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

81. (Previously Canceled) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the height of the radial axis of the band is equal to the height of the radial axis of the nut.

82. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the nut is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

83. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, including a compression surface adjoining at least one inner surface with the periphery, the compression surface being juxtaposed against the tissue surface in the assembled nut.

84. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the two or more inner surfaces comprises a friction surface.

85. (Previously Amended) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

86. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

87. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 86, including at least one ledge disposed between the at least two diameters.

88. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 87, wherein the two or more inner surfaces maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

89. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 87, wherein the compression surface remains juxtaposed against the tissue surface when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

90.-92. (Previously Canceled)

93. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:
a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and
an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

94. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ biologically stable orthopedic fastening system adapted to ~~for~~ securi~~eng~~ at least one elongate element to a tissue having a surface, the system comprising:

at least one first nut section having a first clamping surface adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element and a first compression surface adjoining the first clamping surface;

at least one second nut section having a second clamping surface adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element and a second compression surface adjoining the second clamping surface;

at least a portion of at least one of the first and second compression surfaces being compressed against the tissue surface while the first and second clamping surfaces clamp the at least one elongate element.

95. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

96. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein at least a portion of the at least one first and at least one second compression surfaces comprises a friction surface.

97. (Previously Amended) The fastening system according to claim 94 wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:
a wire; and
a suture.

98. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

99. (Previously Canceled)

100. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 94 wherein the assembled nut comprises an outer surface defining a periphery.

101. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 100, and including a band disposed around the periphery in the assembled nut.

102. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 101, wherein the band in the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

103. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 102, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

104. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 103, wherein the two or more inner surfaces maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

105.-107. (Previously Canceled)

108. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:

a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and

an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

109. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ biologically stable orthopedic fastening system adapted to ~~for~~ secur~~eing~~ at least one elongate element to a tissue having a surface, the system comprising two or more nut sections that form a nut when assembled, the assembled nut comprising:

two or more inner surfaces adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery of the nut sections;

a compression surface adjoining the inner and outer surfaces, the compression surface being adapted to be juxtaposed against the tissue surface; and

a band disposed around the periphery.

110. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

111. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

112. (Previously Canceled)

113. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the two or more inner surfaces comprises a friction surface.

114. (Previously Amended) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

115. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 114, wherein the nut is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

116. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 115, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

117. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 115, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut contacts the tissue surface.

118. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 116, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters in the assembled nut.

119. (Previously Added) The fastening system according to claim 118, wherein the compression surface remains juxtaposed against the tissue surface when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters in the assembled nut.

120.-133. (Previously Canceled)

134. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a surface ~~tissue~~ with biologically stable multiple sections radially arranged around an elongate element, the method comprising:

extending ~~retaining~~ a first portion of an elongate element from a surface ~~in a tissue so that a second portion of the at least one elongate element extends beyond the tissue~~;

contacting the tissue with the multiple sections; and

pressing the multiple sections around the at least one elongate element ~~second portion~~.

135. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a surface ~~tissue~~ with a biologically stable nut comprising two or more sections, the method comprising:

positioning the two or more nut sections around an elongate element extending from a ~~tissue~~ surface;

contacting the surface ~~tissue~~ with the nut sections; and

encircling the nut sections with a band.

136. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 135, comprising at least partially dissolving over a first period of time in vivo, one or more of:

the at least one elongate element; and

the nut.

137. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 135, comprising inducing the at least partial dissolving to occur a period of time that differs from the first period.